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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 002628

NOFORN  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2018  
TAGS: [UN](#) [PREL](#)  
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL TO FOLLOW EU AND ABSTAIN ON KOSOVO ICJ  
RESOLUTION

REF: SECSTATE 105796

Classified By: Gary Applegarth, Pol-Econ Officer, U.S. Embassy Lisbon  
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C/NF) Per reftel, Ambassador Stephenson met with Portuguese Director General for Foreign Policy Nuno Brito to inform him about the U.S. plans to vote against the International Court of Justice (ICJ) resolution and to encourage Portugal to consider doing the same. Brito replied that Portugal was inclined to join other EU states in abstaining on the Serbian ICJ resolution vote. He explained that the EU member states were strongly divided over the issue and that the bloc was likely to remain neutral. Brito went on to discuss Portugal's plans to recognize Kosovo (septel) and said "with any luck" recognition would be announced by Wednesday October 8, which Brito opined was the earliest the General Assembly might take up the ICJ referral issue.  
STEPHENSON